

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 03107 110036Z

15

ACTION DIWY-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 CU-02 OES-03 L-02 H-02

NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SP-02 OIC-02 SY-05 SS-15 AID-05 EUR-12 /088 W

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R 102117Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7144

INFO USUN NEWYORK 893

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 3107

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, OTRA, UN

SUBJ: WCIWY -- MEXICAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNS OVER HOW TO HANDLE
NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

REF: A) MEXICO 2509; B) MEXICO 2939

SUMMARY: GOM HAS ASKED OUR HELP AND SUPPORT IN SPECIAL PROGRAMS
FOR NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES. IT IS CONCERNED THAT NON-
OFFICIALS MAY SWAMP CONFERENCE, OVERBURDEN FACILITIES FOR
OFFICIAL MEETINGS, AND END UP DISGRUNTLED AS A RESULT. IT
PROPOSES SEPARATE SCHEDULE OF ROUNDTABLE MEETINGS ON SPECIAL
SUBJECTS FOR NON-OFFICIALS, WITH NO SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION.
END SUMMARY.

1. FONSEC DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
GONZALEZ GALVEZ INVITED FRENCH AMBASSADOR AND MYSELF TO LUNCH
TODAY WITH HIS DEPUTIES CALDERON FRANCO AND AIDA GONZALEZ.
PURPOSE WAS TO SEEK OUR ADVICE AND SUPPORT FOR GOM PLANS TO
ACCOMMODATE LARGE NUMBERS OF NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES EXPECTED
TO ATTEND WCIWY, WHO THEY FEAR WILL BE TOO NUMEROUS TO ACCOMMODATE
IN PRESENTLY-SCHEDULED WCIWY ACTIVITIES.

2. GONZALEZ GALVEZ NOTED THAT GOVERNMENT DELEGATIONS,
ALTHOUGH EXPECTED TO BE LARGE, POSE NO INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 03107 110036Z

FOR GOM. NOR DO SEMI-OFFICIAL DELEGATES FROM INTERNATIONAL NON-

GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, SINCE THESE ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE PART IN PARALLEL IWY TRIBUNE ACTIVITIES AT SOCIAL SECURITY INSTITUTE AND (BY INVITATION) IN AAAS-SPONSORED SEMINAR (REFTEL A).

3. PROBLEM ARISES OVER WHAT TO DO WITH REPS OF PURELY PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS WHOSE INTEREST IN CONFERENCE APPEARS HIGH AND WHO ARE EXPECTED TO COME TO MEXICO IN UNPREDICTABLE NUMBERS. GONZALEZ REFERRED TO "THOUSANDS" EXPECTED FROM U.S., TO TWO JUMBO JETLOADS EXPECTED FROM FRANCE, AND TO NUMEROUS INQUIRIES FROM FOREIGN TRAVEL AGENTS RECEIVED BY GOM. THESE POTENTIAL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD NOT BE DEFRAUDED, GONZALEZ URGED, BUT GOM LACKED FACILITIES AT MAIN CONFERENCE SITES TO HANDLE THEM.

4. GOM IS CONSIDERING SETTING UP TOTALLY SEPARATE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR NON-OFFICIALS IN SMALLER HALLS AROUND MEXICO CITY AND IN NEARBY TOWNS. THIS PROGRAM WOULD CONSIST OF LECTURES, MEETINGS, AND ROUND TABLES ON INDIVIDUAL TOPICS OF INTEREST TO WOMEN, CARRIED OUT IN MORE INTIMATE ATMOSPHERE AND IN A SINGLE LANGUAGE (TO AVOID NEED FOR SIMULTANEOUS TRANSLATION). INDIVIDUALS COULD THEN PICK AND CHOOSE AMONG SUCH MEETINGS AND SIGN UP FOR THEM ON DAILY BASIS. I COMMENTED THAT SUCH A PROGRAM MIGHT WELL CLIMAX WITH A MASS WRAP-UP MEETING AT THE NATIONAL AUDITORIUM, COMBINING BOTH OFFICIAL AND NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES, AND GONZALEZ SEEMED TO LIKE THE IDEA.

5. IN ADDITION TO SEEKING OUR IDEAS AND SUPPORT FOR THIS SEPARATE PROGRAM, GONZALEZ ASKED FOR THE FOLLOWING HELP:

A. AN ESTIMATE, EVEN A BALL-PARK FIGURE, OF THE NUMBERS OF NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES WE EXPECT FROM THE U.S. (NOTE OUR SIMILAR REQUEST IN REFTEL B), AND HE SUGGESTED WE DO THIS ON A STATE BY STATE BASIS.

B. A LIST OF TOPICS WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR THESE NON-OFFICIAL MEETINGS, IN THE OVERALL CONTEXT OF THE WCIWY AGENDA.

C. SUGGESTIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS WHO MIGHT MODERATE THE MEETINGS OR PREPARE PAPERS OR PRESENTATIONS FOR THEM.

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 03107 110036Z

6. COMMENT: THE MEXICANS ARE OBVIOUSLY WORRIED THAT THE NON-OFFICIALS MAY SWAMP THIS IMPORTANT CONFERENCE, PRODUCE CHAOS, AND BLOT THEIR CHERISHED RECORD AS HOSTS FOR SUCH EVENTS. THEY MAY ALSO BE WORRIED THAT THE MORE RADICAL PROPONENTS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS MAY DIVERT ATTENTION FROM THEIR OWN PET THESIS THAT THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN DEPENDS UPON ACHIEVEMENT OF A "NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER". FINALLY, THEY MAY WELL BE WORRIED THAT THE RADICALS WILL FAN SMOLDERING FIRES AMONG MEXICO'S

OWN POLITICALLY-DISCONTENTED WOMEN'S GROUPS (THEY GOT A TASTE
OF THIS DISCONTENT AT A WOMEN'S RALLY HELD LAST WEEKEND IN
GUANAJUATO--SEPTTEL COMING).

7. IT IS TEMPTING TO SUGGEST THAT WE LET THE MEXICANS STEW
IN THEIR OWN JUICE THIS TIME. HOWEVER, I BELIEVE THE PROPOSED
PROGRAM HAS CONSIDERABLE MERIT ON ITS FACE AND WOULD FACILITATE
OUR OWN EFFORTS TO ENSURE THAT U.S. NON-OFFICIALS ENJOY A
FRUITFUL WCIWY EXPERIENCE. I RECOMMEND THEREFORE THAT WE GIVE
THE GOM PROPOSAL OUR ENDORSEMENT, AND I ASK THAT THE DEPARTMENT
FURNISH ME (IN ANY EVENT) WITH AS MUCH OF THE INFORMATION
REQUESTED BY GONZALEZ AS IS POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MEXICO03107
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750126-0382
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750463/aaaacfxc.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DIWY
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MEXICO 2509, 75 MEXICO 2939
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 SEP 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <11 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WCIWY -- MEXICAN GOVERNMENT CONCERNS OVER HOW TO HANDLE NON-OFFICIAL DELEGATES TO WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
TAGS: OCON, OTRA, UN, IWY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006